

This year, while celebrating its 25th anniversary, the Center has grown to become the largest LGBT multi-service organization on the East Coast and the second-largest LGBT community center in the world. More than 6,000 people and 300 groups meet there every week. As a mark of his achievements, Mr. Burns was inducted into OMB Watch's Public Interest Hall of Fame at their 25th Anniversary celebration in September 2008.

Before joining The LGBT Center in December of 1986, Mr. Burns acted as President of the Board of Directors and as Managing Editor of the Gay Community News in Massachusetts.

Mr. Burns has served on the Board of Directors of the Non-Profit Coordinating Committee since 1987. In addition, he is an active member and past Co-Chair of CenterLink, an association of LGBT Community Centers which he co-founded in 1994. Today, CenterLink is the national voice for nearly 150 LGBT community centers across the country as a result of his dedication.

Mr. Burns also serves on the Citizen's Advisory Committee of New York City's Human Resources Administration and is the founder of the New York State LGBT Health and Human Services Network. And Mr. Burns is a member of the Steering Committee of the National LGBT Executive Directors Leadership Institute, a member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's National Policy Roundtable.

Today I rise to recognize and congratulate Richard D. Burns for 22 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender population of New York, and for his groundbreaking work as Executive Director of The LGBT Center.

RECOGNIZING BRIGADIER GENERAL MARK ZIRKELBACH

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Deputy Adjutant General of the Iowa Army National Guard, Brigadier General Mark Zirkelbach, and to express gratitude for his many years of extraordinary service and leadership. General Zirkelbach is retiring after almost four decades of service with the National Guard. He enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard in 1970, and has served as the Deputy Adjutant General of the Iowa Army Guard since August 2001. As Deputy Adjutant General, he's helped lead the Iowa Guard through the transformation from a strategic reserve to an operational force, and has overseen the deployment of thousands of Iowa National Guard members to combat zones like Iraq and Afghanistan. General Zirkelbach has been a strong advocate for Iowa National Guard members, and has no doubt made an incredible difference in the lives of many Iowa Guard members and their families during this challenging time. He's also served as an incredible resource for me and my staff. It's been my privilege to work with General Zirkelbach on issues of importance to the Iowa National Guard, including ensuring that soldiers who served in Iraq received the education benefits they deserved, and working

to ensure that they receive the respite leave benefits that they are owed from the Pentagon. I thank General Zirkelbach for his invaluable service to the National Guard, the state of Iowa, and the United States, and wish him the best of luck in retirement.

ACTION IN COMMUNITY THROUGH SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Action in Community Through Service (ACTS) as an exceptional community organization, setting a high standard of service for individuals and organizations in Prince William County.

Established on November 1, 1969, ACTS is guided by the mission to alleviate hunger, homelessness, and domestic violence, and help people achieve self-support in the Prince William area. A small group of dedicated volunteers and clergymen founded ACTS in response to the need for coordinated community action. ACTS now serves over 45,000 people a year. The organization's growth is a testament to the effectiveness of its programs and ability of its staff and volunteers.

ACTS opened the area's first food bank and first dedicated homeless shelter. In 2008, two new facilities opened to accommodate the success of ACTS programs. The Eastern Prince William Safe House provides refuge for victims of domestic violence, and the new Family Services Center offers job counseling and life skills classes to women, children and families struggling with the hardships of homelessness. These facilities will help to restore hope and opportunity to those whom otherwise would endure pain and isolation.

ACTS continually receives top marks for program efficiency and delivers results that genuinely change lives. Citizens hoping to improve their community and the lives of their neighbors have a capable partner in ACTS.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for this organization's accomplishments and their steadfast commitment to charity.

HONORING JOHN REAP, THE 2008 METROCREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR"

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to John Reap, the 2008 Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year." John's dedication and contributions to the Metrocrest community, which consists of Addison, Carrollton and Farmers Branch, have been both dynamic and exceptional. The Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce presents the award on January 30, 2009, and I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to John for the deserved award and his many years of selfless service.

John is the current President and Chief Executive Officer of Town North Bank, N.A., in

Dallas. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Bank. John has been at Town North Bank for twenty-eight years, the last fourteen serving in his current position.

An active community member, John has served with a variety of civic organizations including the American Heart Association, the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association, the Metrocrest Senior Adult Services, the Carrollton Farmers Branch Independent School District Educational Foundation, the University of Arkansas Alumni Association, and the North Texas Region Committee for the University of Arkansas Campaign for the 21st Century. John served for seventeen years in both local and state capacities for the American Heart Association in Texas, and was Chairman of the Board of the American Heart Association, Texas Affiliate, Inc., from 1992 until 1993.

John earned a banking graduate degree from the University of Virginia in 1977, a master's degree in Business Administration from Southern Methodist University in 1971, and an undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas in 1970. He also served as a faculty member for several years at the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I join the Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce in applauding the merits and commitment John Reap has displayed to our community. John's tireless passion for community service has contributed greatly to the betterment of those around him, and I am extremely grateful for his service. On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I salute John for his achievement as the 2008 Metrocrest Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" and wish him many years of continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. E.B. TURNER

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a giant among giants, a friend of all citizens from all walks of life, and a man whose hand was always extended to those who wanted to reach for their dreams—Dr. E.B. Turner of Lumberton, Robeson County, NC.

Dr. Turner, who passed away October 5, 2008, was an inspirational leader, dedicated public servant, and renowned pastor for generations of Robesonians. Sixty years earlier in 1948, Dr. Turner, who had just finished divinity school at Shaw University, made the trip south down I-95 to Lumberton to become pastor at First Baptist Church in South Lumberton. Never planning to make Lumberton his home or become involved in public service, Turner was challenged by the opportunity to make a difference. And through wisdom, perseverance, and drive, he truly did. From housing to infrastructure to economic development to education, Dr. Turner made a lasting impact on the future and quality of life for hundreds of thousands of citizens.

In addition to his public contributions, Dr. Turner faithfully served the First Baptist Church for 57 years as Pastor. Through his love of God and his willingness to share the